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**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

# Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

## Report by the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/95, concerns the provision of the facilities and staff necessary to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

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1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/95. In line with paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Secretariat continued to provide the facilities and staff necessary to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. In 2017, the Committee was represented by the following three members: the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York and the Acting Chair of the Committee, Shahrul Ikram Yaakob; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York, Sabarullah Khan; and the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Coly Seck.

2. The Special Committee was directly supported in the fulfilment of its mandate by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jordan. In addition, the Committee engaged with OHCHR in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

3. Much of the support was related to the annual investigative mission to the region of the Special Committee. Owing to the persistent absence of cooperation of the authorities of Israel with the Committee, the latter was not able to visit the occupied territories. The Committee, therefore, held meetings in Amman from 12 to 14 July 2017.[1] In addition, it held consultations with several Member States on 20 and 21 March 2017 in Geneva. During its mission to Amman, the Committee collected testimony and information from victims, witnesses, officials and civil society representatives working on documenting and preventing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied territories. Those testimonies and briefings are recorded in the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

4. The Department of Public Information provided a wide array of communications support to the Special Committee, including through the website on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is in all six official United Nations languages and is updated with the latest background information, messages, events, videos, documents and related links. The Department also promoted the observance on the United Nations home page, ensuring high-profile exposure of the topic. A total of 12 press releases in English and French were also issued on the work of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly.

5. The multilingual, multimedia news platforms of the Department of Public Information regularly covered the work and the areas of focus of the Special Committee through traditional media and social media platforms in eight languages. The coverage was frequently picked up by news aggregators and was also made available to a network of more than 900 radio and television broadcast partners. Information about the work of the Committee was also shared with journalists accredited at United Nations Headquarters.

6. News coverage by the Department of Public Information included relevant events, statements and developments in the context of the work of the Special Committee, UNRWA, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the

[1] The Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations office at Geneva was unable to attend this mission, and was represented by the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission, Serigne Dieye.

Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies. The work and statements of the Secretary-General and other senior officials of the Organization were also featured, including those of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

7. In addition, the Department of Public Information interviewed senior United Nations officials and others to spotlight the human rights of the Palestinian people. Feature interviews by the Arabic-language news team of the Department included that of a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Hanan Ashrawi, and a Palestinian movie director, Raed Andoni, whose film *Ghost Hunting* was screened at United Nations Headquarters in April 2017, on the occasion of Palestinian Prisoners' Day, organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.